

CALIFORNIA STATE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

WALTER M. DICKIE, M.D., Director

Weekly Bulletin



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Entered as second-class matter February 21, 1922, at the post office at Sacramento, California, under the Act of August 24, 1912.
Acceptance for mailing at special rate of postage provided for in Section 1103, Act of October 3, 1917.

Vol. VIII, No. 15

May 18, 1929

GUY P. JONES
EDITOR

A Case of Malaria Immortalized in Stone

A remarkable and most extensive exhibit of sculpture now on display at the Palace of the Legion of Honor in San Francisco is reminiscent of a celebrated marble figure of public health significance which was displayed in the Italian section of the Palace of Fine Arts at the Panama Pacific International Exposition in 1915. This is the "Proximus Tuus" or "Thy Neighbor" by Achille D'Orsi. The figure was made in 1880 by this celebrated artist and it depicts an Italian agricultural laborer of that period who suffered from malaria. The outward physical characteristics of this disease are manifest in the realism of the figure which has been called "The man with the hoe sitting down" by Professor Eugen Neuhaus of the University of California and who adds, "No matter whether the man

succumbed to the dreariness of work or to the malarial fever of the Pontine swamps, all that has ever been said about Millet's man and the terrible fatalism of his facial expression is found in this piece of sculpture."

This work was brought to California from Rome and in order to reproduce the photograph, as shown here, it was necessary to secure the permission of Mr. Arburino Colisanti, of the Superior Council for Antiquities and the Fine Arts. In granting this permission Mr. Colisanti wrote "we should be grateful to you if, in your publication, you would notice that the work of D'Orsi is made in



"PROXIMUS TUUS" (Thy Neighbor) by Achille D'Orsi, 1880.

the year 1880 and it reproduces the type fortunately now quite disappeared from our country by means of the activity that we employed to combat the malaria."

SCHOOL CHILDREN SHOULD STAND STRAIGHT

A child who droops and sags can not accomplish good school work. Not all healthy children have the same posture for the reason that their physical makeup is not the same. It is possible, however, for every child to develop correct posture, which has an important bearing upon the general condition of his health. His shoulders should not droop, nor should his abdomen appear prominent. He should acquire a normal ease and poise by which the various organs of the body may be held in normal position. Most defective postures can be corrected through proper gymnastic exercises. The child who stands straight and holds his head erect is likely to have a better mental attitude than the child who droops and sags. The physical examinations given free of charge to children of pre-school age through the cooperation of the Bureau of Child Hygiene of the California State Department of Public Health and the California Congress of Parents and Teachers will include the examinations of children for posture. In cases where faulty methods of standing or sitting are discovered, recommendations for their correction will be made.

Full information concerning these examinations, which will be carried on during March, April and May, may be obtained from the local health officer or the Bureau of Child Hygiene, 335 State Building, Civic Center, San Francisco.

A COMMENT ON THE SPREAD OF MENINGITIS

Dr. J. J. Seppy of Stockton, health officer of the San Joaquin Health District, makes the following interesting comment on the status of epidemic meningitis within the territory under his administration:

General increase of meningococcic meningitis for the past six months has been noted over the entire country, and particularly in the Rocky Mountain and west coast states. The occurrence of many cases with high fatality rates in Filipino immigrants at Pacific ports indicated either importation of an Oriental strain of unusual virulence or a low immunity in the Filipino population. Despite the port detention of all such immigrants for the usual incubation period it seems evident that a high percentage of carriers were released to carry infection to inland centers and there follows the natural inference that these may disseminate the disease through these local centers.

Since February 1st to date, (May 15), 12 cases with three deaths have been reported in San Joaquin. Of these, 4 were white, 1 Mexican, and 7 Filipino. Five were distinct importations from other counties, and of the 7 originating locally, all but one give history of Filipino contact or association. Of the 3 cases (all white) originating in Stockton, 1 was an importation found in a local auto camp, 1 had been a resident of Stockton only 2 weeks, and the third gave history of attendance at a local theater usually attended by large numbers of Orientals.

Warmer weather, with much outdoor living and open windows, will do much to inhibit further spread.

"We stop playing, not because we grow old; we grow old because we stop playing."—Herbert Spencer.

READERS WHO WANT THE BULLETIN SHOULD RETURN SIGNED CARD

It is requested that recipients of the WEEKLY BULLETIN who may desire to retain their names on the mailing list sign and return the card form which was sent to them recently. The mailing list is handled as carefully as is that of a journal having a paid annual subscription list. In order to keep it in good order it is revised each year. The names of those individuals who do not signify their desire to receive the publication will be removed from the list on June first. This policy, it has been found, is in the interest of both the subscriber and the department and it makes for both efficiency and economy. Nearly 6000 individuals who are actively engaged in public health work or who are deeply interested in the work now receive this publication. Readers who do not receive the WEEKLY BULLETIN regularly are requested to address their complaint to the State Department of Public Health, Sacramento, California.

PITTSBURG HEALTH OFFICER VACCINATES MANY CHILDREN

In cooperation with the local health center, Dr. W. W. Peters, city health officer of Pittsburg recently vaccinated 137 children against smallpox. With the assistance of four nurses and a group of teachers and volunteer workers the doctor was able to accomplish this work in a single hour. All of these vaccinations "took" with but a single exception.

SOCIAL WORKERS OF NATION TO MEET IN SAN FRANCISCO

Unemployment, race improvement, the cost of sickness, standards and training for various kinds of social and health workers, community chest organization, and child welfare are among the topics to be discussed before the National Conference of Social Work, which will hold its fifty-sixth annual meeting at San Francisco, June 26 to July 3. More than thirty national organizations will meet during the period June 24 to July 3. Several thousand people interested in all phases of social work will attend.

Among the speakers are: William B. Munro of Harvard, Miriam Van Waters, referee of the Los Angeles Juvenile Court; Grace Abbott, chief of the U. S. Children's Bureau; Dr. Sheldon Glueck of the Harvard Law School, and Porter R. Lee, director of the New York School of Social Work and president of the conference.

With the cooperation of over 30 organizations in various fields of social and health work, a consultation service has been planned, through which appointments may be made in advance of the conference period. Several hundred experts will be available to give the benefit of their training and experience in talking over local problems with those who attend the conference.

NEW YORK STATE PROVIDES SAFEGUARDS TO ICE CREAM

All milk or cream used in the manufacture of ice cream or other "frozen milk products" sold in New York state outside of New York City must be pasteurized either before or after being mixed with other ingredients, according to a regulation enacted by the Public Health Council on March 11. The measure is designed to prevent the spread of communicable diseases through ice cream; milk and cream being the ingredients usually responsible. In 1925, State Health Department records show an epidemic of 366 cases of septic sore throat was traced to contaminated milk used in preparation of ice cream. There have been other similar but less extensive outbreaks since. That ice cream prepared by individuals or in small plants has been responsible for all of these is probably accounted for, health department officials say, by the fact that in large plants it is common practice to pasteurize the ice cream "mix" at a high temperature.

The new sanitary code regulation also required that "The apparatus, utensils and containers used in the manufacture or delivery of a frozen milk product shall be kept at all times in a clean and sanitary condition" and provides that no person who is suffering from or is a carrier of the germs of a disease which may be transmitted through milk or cream may be employed in the handling of ice cream or its ingredients. Ice cream manufacturers are prohibited from continuing to employ persons refusing to submit laboratory specimens required to determine their freedom from such diseases.

"There is nothing against which we ought to be more on our guard than, like a flock of sheep, following the crowd of those who have preceded us, going, as we do, not where we ought to go, but where men have walked before * * *. We live not according to reason, but according to mere fashion and tradition. We shall recover our sound health if only we shall separate ourselves from the herd, for the crowd of mankind stands opposed to right reason—the defender of its own evils and miseries * * *. Human history is not so well conducted that the better way is pleasing to the mass. The very fact of the approbation of the multitude is a proof of the badness of the opinion or practice. Let us ask what is *best*, not what is more *customary*; what may place us in the possession of an everlasting felicity."—*Seneca writing to Lucilius*.

"Being arrived at seventy, and considering that by traveling further in the same road I should probably be led to the grave, I stopped short, turned about and walked back again; which done these four years, you may now call me sixty-six."—*Benjamin Franklin*.

COMMUNITY OUTINGS INVOLVE RESPONSIBILITIES

The community outing, sponsored by the recreational departments of many of the larger municipalities and by welfare organizations, recently has gained greatly in popularity. Many of these outings are for children only, without their parents. In such cases, the responsibility for the provision of pure water and food, screening against flies and mosquitoes, rests with the managers of the camps. In those municipal camps where whole families spend their vacations at a city-owned camp, the responsibility is likewise upon the directors of the institution. The health hazards involved, in so far as sanitation is concerned, are no different from those encountered on the family outing. There is an added and important hazard, however, where large numbers of children are gathered together from all parts of a city and that is the hazard of contracting contact diseases such as diphtheria, smallpox, measles, whooping cough, scarlet fever, etc. Parents of children who go on these outings should see that they are vaccinated against smallpox and immunized against diphtheria before starting from home. These procedures will provide sufficient safeguard against these diseases. Children may also be immunized against typhoid fever. While the water supplies in these community camps is always safeguarded, there may be hazards in eating food prepared by possible typhoid carriers, and milk not produced under sanitary conditions always presents a health hazard of the first order. The managers of these camps, however, are generally alert in the provision of pure milk supplies, and they, in many cases, require the physical examination of all food handlers employed in the camps, so as to eliminate all possible carriers.

"Tell me how a people uses its leisure and I will tell you the quality of its civilization."—*Maeterlinck*.

MORBIDITY *

Diphtheria.

43 cases of diphtheria have been reported, as follows: Alameda County 1, Berkeley 2, Oakland 4, Los Angeles County 4, El Segundo 1, Glendale 3, Huntington Park 2, Los Angeles 9, Sausalito 1, San Diego 3, San Francisco 6, San Luis Obispo 1, Redwood City 2, Petaluma 1, Stanislaus County 1, Ventura County 2.

Scarlet Fever.

414 cases of scarlet fever have been reported, as follows: Alameda 6, Berkeley 2, Oakland 40, Piedmont 1, Butte County 8, Gridley 1, Contra Costa County 2, Pittsburg 4, Richmond 1, Fresno County 9, Fresno 8, Glenn County 2, Brawley 4, Kern County 8, Bakersfield 1, Taft 3, Kings County 1, Hanford 1, Susanville 2, Los Angeles County 48, Alhambra 1,

* From reports received on May 13th and 14th for week ending May 11th.

Beverly Hills 1, Claremont 1, Glendale 2, Glendora 1, Huntington Park 5, Long Beach 7, Los Angeles 35, Pasadena 1, San Fernando 4, Sierra Madre 1, Whittier 3, Hawthorne 2, South Gate 1, Monterey Park 1, Maywood 1, Bell 1, Madera County 3, San Rafael 5, Merced County 1, Merced 2, Modoc County 4, Santa Ana 1, Riverside County 2, Corona 2, Riverside 14, Sacramento County 20, Sacramento 13, San Bernardino 2, San Diego 16, San Francisco 55, San Joaquin County 3, Stockton 16, Tracy 2, Burlingame 1, South San Francisco 4, Santa Clara County 2, Gilroy 2, San Jose 9, Santa Clara 1, Petaluma 3, Stanislaus County 1, Modesto 2, Porterville 1, Tuolumne County 1, Sonora 2, Yolo County 2, Woodland 1, Marysville 1.

Measles.

121 cases of measles have been reported, as follows: Alameda County 1, Oakland 10, Gridley 1, Crescent City 1, Fresno 4, Humboldt County 1, Susanville 4, Los Angeles County 5, Alhambra 1, Burbank 13, Glendale 2, Los Angeles 44, Montebello 1, South Gate 1, Bell 1, Modoc County 2, Orange 1, Sacramento 12, San Diego 3, San Francisco 6, San Luis Obispo County 5, Petaluma 1, Ventura County 1.

Smallpox.

69 cases of smallpox have been reported, as follows: Alameda County 1, Alameda 12, Berkeley 5, Oakland 2, Butte County 12, Glenn County 6, Eureka 1, Kings County 2, Los Angeles County 1, Long Beach 1, Los Angeles 3, Salinas 1, Riverside County 1, Colton 1, San Bernardino 1, San Francisco 2, San Jose 2, Watsonville 2, Stanislaus County 3, Modesto 2, Corning 2, Tulare County 2, Visalia 3, California 1.**

Typhoid Fever.

13 cases of typhoid fever have been reported, as follows: Los Angeles County 3, Los Angeles 2, Monterey County 1, San Francisco 1, San Joaquin County 1, Stockton 2, Modesto 1, Tulare County 1, California 1.**

Whooping Cough.

225 cases of whooping cough have been reported, as follows: Berkeley 5, Oakland 16, Piedmont 4, Cantra Costa County 1, Pinole 1, Humboldt County 3, Bakersfield 1, Los Angeles County 16, Alhambra 5, Compton 2, El Segundo 1, Glendale 12, Glendora 2, Huntington Park 4, Long Beach 10, Los Angeles 25, Monrovia 11, Pasadena 11, San Gabriel 2, Santa Monica 1, Vernon 1, Whittier 3, South Gate 3, Maywood 2, Brea 1, La Habra 1, Tustin 1, Riverside County 2, Riverside 6, Sacramento 11, Colton 1, Redlands 1, San Diego 10, San Francisco 16, San Joaquin County 16, Stockton 10, San Luis Obispo County 2, South San Francisco 1, Santa Barbara 2, Santa Clara County 3, Gilroy 1, Palo Alto 6, San Jose 7, Santa Cruz County 3, Vallejo 2, Stanislaus County 4, Tulare County 1, Ojai 2, Winters 3.

Meningitis (Epidemic).

22 cases of epidemic meningitis have been reported, as follows: Oakland 2, Fresno 1, Los Angeles 2, Whittier 1, San Quentin 1, Merced County 1, Monterey County 2, Salinas 1, Plumas County 2, San Diego 2, San Francisco 5, Santa Paula 1, California 1.**

Poliomyelitis.

Two cases of poliomyelitis have been reported, as follows: Brawley 1, Los Angeles 1.

Undulant Fever.

Two cases of undulant fever have been reported, as follows: Red Bluff 1, Davis 1.

Leprosy.

Los Angeles reported one case of leprosy.

** Cases charged to "California" represent patients ill before entering the state or those who contracted their illness traveling about the state throughout the incubation period of the disease. These cases are not chargeable to any one locality.

COMMUNICABLE DISEASE REPORTS

Disease	1929			1928		
	Week ending		Reports for week ending May 11 received by May 14	Week ending		Reports for week ending May 12 received by May 15
	April 20	April 27		April 21	April 28	
Actinomycosis	0	0	1	0	1	0
Anthrax	0	0	0	0	0	0
Botulism	0	0	0	0	0	2
Chickenpox	558	593	566	569	634	514
Coccidioidal granuloma	1	0	0	0	0	0
Diphtheria	56	55	58	43	99	87
Dysentery (amoebic)	1	0	0	0	1	4
Dysentery (bacillary)	7	9	1	2	12	3
Encephalitis (epidemic)	1	2	2	0	2	3
Erysipelas	25	27	16	14	14	16
Food poisoning	1	0	0	0	4	14
German measles	40	44	25	34	350	377
Gonococcus infection	89	154	95	91	95	96
Hookworm	0	0	2	0	0	6
Influenza	60	49	27	30	38	29
Leprosy	3	0	0	1	0	2
Malaria	2	1	2	1	0	0
Measles	115	106	108	121	154	115
Meningitis (epidemic)	22	24	25	22	6	6
Mumps	602	549	547	476	344	361
Ophthalmia neonatorum	0	1	2	0	0	0
Paratyphoid fever	0	0	0	0	1	0
Pellagra	1	2	1	0	0	2
Pneumonia (lobar)	79	68	64	46	43	136
Poliomyelitis	1	1	1	2	3	6
Rabies (animal)	9	16	13	12	12	11
Rocky Mt. spotted fever	0	0	0	0	0	5
Scarlet fever	485	491	465	414	133	124
Smallpox	94	110	73	69	25	19
Syphilis	180	192	160	176	110	148
Tetanus	2	2	2	1	3	1
Trachoma	3	4	2	3	3	2
Tuberculosis	222	173	214	206	170	282
Typhoid fever	6	11	11	13	4	4
Undulant fever	1	0	0	2	0	0
Whooping cough	323	329	303	255	302	397
Totals	2989	3013	2786	2603	2562	2766
						2387
						2708